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The Office of Corporate Finance Securities and Exchange Commission Judiciary Plaza 450 5th Street North West Washington DC 20549 USA

08 July 2003

CIPPE

Dear Sirs

12g3-2(b) Exemption: Marks and Spencer p.l.c.: United Kingdom: 18 December 1987

I enclose a copy of an announcement which was made to the London Stock Exchange this morning which is being supplied as a follow up for our existing exemption.

Yours faithfully

PATRICIA FARRELL Company Secretariat +44 20 7268 3377 PROCESSED

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Marks and Spencer p.l.c. Registered Office: Michael House Baker Street London W1U 8EP Registered No. 214436 (England and Wales) Issued: 8 July 2003

MARKS & SPENCER LEADERSHIP TRANSITION COMPLETED

In July last year, Marks & Spencer announced that as of 1 September 2002, Luc Vandevelde

was reverting to his original position as full-time Chairman of Marks and Spencer Group plc

and that Roger Holmes was appointed as Chief Executive. Subsequently, Luc moved to a

part-time basis in January of this year.

With Roger Holmes now firmly established as Chief Executive, the Board has decided it is

appropriate to complete the leadership transition. Effective from 1 September 2003, Luc

Vandevelde will focus on Chairing the Board and the Corporate Social Responsibility

Committee, and he will also sit on the Nomination Committee. He will be stepping down

as Chairman of Marks & Spencer Financial Services and this role will be taken up by Roger

Holmes\*.

At the same time, Luc will move to a new remuneration package, which will totally align

his compensation with the interests of shareholders. His reward from September 2003,

will be in the form of shares to be paid on the basis of 13,500 shares per calendar month.

He will no longer be eligible for a bonus or pension contributions and he ceased to be

eligible for share options or the Share Matching Plan in September 2002.

Luc Vandevelde, Chairman said: "It is testimony to Roger's leadership and to the team in

place at Marks & Spencer, that the time has come for me to step into a more traditional role

of a Chairman. It is also a vote of confidence in the team and in the plans for the

Company, that in future my remuneration is closely tied to the value which we create for

our shareholders and is reflected in the share price."

**ENDS** 

\*Subject to normal regulatory procedures

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